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18 August 1970

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SPECIAL INFORMATION REPORT

Prospects for Disruptive Demonstration in Washington

In June two national meetings were held, one at Cleveland and one at Milwaukee, by leading organizations in the anti-war movement. The Cleveland meeting, entitled "The National Emergency Conference Against the Cambodia-Laos-Vietnam War" was held from 18 to 21 June and sponsored principally by the Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam. Fourteen hundred activitists attended and the principal opposition to the Student Mobe tactics and objectives came from the Workers Student Alliance faction of the SDS. The Student Mobe, which is controlled by the Young Socialist Alliance, the youth group of the Trotskyite Socialist Workers Party, continued to adhere to a single issue objective and a mass demonstration tactic. The WSA on the other hand, which is the youth group of the Maoist Progressive Labor Party, is multi-issue oriented and dedicated to a strategy of confrontation and violence. Since the Student Mobe controlled the majority of those attending the Cleveland conference, the tactics, which include mass demonstrations in urban centers on 31 October, was adopted. It was further decided at Cleveland that the emphasis would be placed on relating the war to the issues of racial oppression, inflation, political repression, GI rights, etc.

The following week, June 27 and 28, a "Strategy Action Conference" was staged at Milwaukee. Principally responsible for the coordination at Milwaukee was the New Mobilization Committee with, for the first time, participation by a significant American Negro group, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Also present at Milwaukee were representatives from the National Welfare Rights Organization. The tactical plan advanced at Milwaukee was away from the past strategy of mass demonstration and toward increased militancy.

As is usually the case with national meetings of radical leftists and anti-war organizations, the Milwaukee conference broke into a number of workshops which formulated plans for future action then presented them to the general conference for approval. One such action plan, for the

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disruption and liberation of Washington was authored by Arthur Irvin Waskow (see attachment #1) and presented to the conference by Rennie Davis (see attachment #2). It was originally proposed that peace marchers from several eastern cities would converge on Washington on Labor Day, September 7, in the hope of shutting down the city for several days. The general conference failed to vote support to the plan. Little enthusiasm has since been generated for the September date and it appears that any effort to disrupt the city, if it comes before next May, will occur in late October or early November. A plan for fall would coincide with national elections and the availability of college students. Davis and Waskow would probably also wish to take advantage of publicity presently being disseminated for Student Mobe scheduled activities on October 31.

Recent events at the 23rd Congress of the National Student Association held at McAllister College at St. Paul, Minnesota, tend to indicate that any plan for disrupting the city is considered out until next spring. Rennie Davis on the 14th of August presented to those convening at St. Paul the Arthur Waskow plan for the disruption and liberation of Washington. It appears that Davis hoped to elicit the support of a generally respectable organization of students. In addressing the student congress, Davis advised that the date for the demonstration was picked as the first anniversary of the Cambodian "invasion". Although Rennie Davis' plan was reportedly supported by most National Student Association leaders, his proposal was narrowly defeated by the delegates (134 for, 150 against). It is probably of more than passing significance that Ralph Abernathy of the SCLC at that organization's just concluded 13th annual convention has started talking of a second poor people's march on Washington next spring. It is considered highly probable that Abernathy may select a date in late April or early May 1971 to coincide with the Davis-Waskow plan for 1 May.

In summary, it is considered unlikely that an attempt will be made this fall to disrupt either the city or various Government agencies. The unlikelihood of such a move is indicated by the near total lack of publicity to date in the radical and underground press, Davis' address to the NSA convention specifying the 1 May date, and Ralph Abernathy's projected plans for next spring. If, however, Davis can manage to mount a disruptive demonstration in Washington this fall, it will probably be coordinated with the October 31 nationwide demonstration plans of the Student Mobe. The National Steering Committee of the Student Mobe was to meet in mid-August and perhaps more details of their fall plans will be announced soon. A possible demonstration over

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the Labor Day weekend is regarded as highly unlikely. No advanced publicity for such a demonstration has been noted.

If an attempt by Rennie Davis, Arthur Waskow, and others is made this fall to march on or block access to the Agency as well as other federal departments, it is doubtful that their efforts could produce serious disruption. Some adverse publicity (principally in the underground press) could however result.

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SITUATION INFORMATION REPORT

CALENDAR OF TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Asterisked items are either reported for the first time, or contain additions or changes to previously reported activities.

*28 August - 3 September, Portland, Oregon

Antiwar protest groups at Portland are sponsoring a "People's Army Jamboree" (PAJ) on the above dates. The national convention of the American Legion is being held at Portland at the same time. On August 5 a PAJ spokesman, describing the Legion as an arrogant and self-important symbol of death and destruction, said that any PAJ confrontation with the Legion would be planned as peaceful but that the possibility of violence could not be discounted. As many as 50,000 persons may participate and this number will probably swell if the President addresses the convention. FBI 105-137 6-23-70

In a meeting on August 20 the Portland City Council voted to permit the PAJ to use Portland's East Delta Park (a 90 acre site seven miles from downtown) during the week. Representatives of PAJ did not attend the council meeting and the organization's coordinating committee had on the previous day decided to reject the use of East Delta Park if offered. The coordinating committee instead decided to take whatever park PAJ needed with or without permits. Reportedly several hundred individuals expected in Portland from the Seattle area are regarded as hard core radicals who could be expected to cause trouble. Minn. FBI 138-971-8/26-70

Portland law enforcement officials regard PAJ estimates of youths expected to attend inflated. Law enforcement officials reportedly, however, are making extensive security arrangements. Nearly 4,000 National Guardsmen have recently been trained in crowd control and

N.Y. Times 8-23-70

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Governor McCall has ordered Guardsmen to special assembly points in the Portland area and has told the Guardsmen to be prepared to stay on duty as long as needed. The state of Oregon has turned over a state park 25 miles southeast of Portland for a free festival on the above dates in an attempt to syphon off as many youths as possible from Portland. NY Times 8-23-70

A recent article in the underground Berkeley Barb publicizes the Jamboree. The article reflects that the American Legion "relates" to systematic oppression and exploitation of racial minorities; American imperialism; lower wages, higher taxes and unemployment as a result of American imperialist policies; the suffering of women under a capitalist system which exploits them economically and socially and perpetuates male supremacy; those seeking political or cultural changes in America finding themselves continually repressed by the "pig" power structure; and army draftees finding themselves trapped in a fascist system, stripped of their constitutional rights, and forced to comply with a racist and imperialist power structure.

The PAJ schedule of events is as follows:

29 August - General orientation, formation of affinity groups, publishing legal defense and medical information, a rock concert and guerilla theater.

30 August - Workshops on the points at issue, national speakers, education regarding local "pig" institutions, music and theater.

31 August - Victory to the Vietnamese celebration in the late afternoon and demonstration march in the evening. (This is the scheduled day of the American Legion parade.)

1 September - Demonstrations and actions at local "pig" institutions, free Bobby Seale and all political prisoners demonstrations, anti-racism torchlight march at night.

2 September - Continuation of workshop activities in the morning and clean-up and community services in the afternoon.

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The address of the People's Army Jamboree is P.O. Box 843, Portland, Oregon; telephone number (503) 224-2636.

29 August, Los Angeles, California

A national Chicano moratorium is still being planned by radical leftist Mexican-American organizations in urban centers of the western U.S. with sizable Mexican-American populations. The center of these activities will be Los Angeles. Participants will include known militants coming to southern California from as far away as Denver. About 50,000 persons are expected by the organizers to participate and the tentative plan is for a march beginning at L.A.'s Belvedere Park at 10 a.m.

The theme of the demonstration seems principally to be ending the war in Vietnam regardless of the consequences. Some of the organizations involved have a long record of past activity in political demonstrations. Included are the Mexican-American Political Association, the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee and the Young Socialist Alliance. WIS State Calif 8-16-70

*30 August, Washington, D.C.

D.C. Women's Liberation will hold the first women's festival at L'Enfant Square, 10th and Constitution Avenue in the afternoon of August 30. Women in the movement are being invited to participate as performers or as artists displaying their work. Quicksilver Times 7 Aug 70

*September, New York

The Black Academy of Arts and Letters has announced that three black Americans will be enrolled in the Academy's newly established Hall of Fame in September. One of those elected is the late W.E.B. DuBois. It is expected that DuBois' widow, Shirley Graham DuBois, will attend the ceremonies. The 71 year old Mrs. DuBois, a citizen of Ghana presently living in Cairo, has just been issued a visa to travel in America after first being denied the visa by the Department of Justice. Mrs. DuBois allegedly belongs to some 30 subversive organizations and was originally deemed inadmissible on this basis.

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NY Times 14 July 70

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*September, Washington, D.C.

Reportedly Huey P. Newton, the Black Panther Party leader recently released from prison and highly articulate black radical, has been invited to speak before freshmen students at Howard University during the third week in September.

Although dates have not yet been announced, it has also been reported that Newton will make one or more national television appearances toward the end of September. FBI IN 144325 - 4/17/70

*3 - 7 September, Atlanta, Georgia

The Congress of African People will meet to develop institutions to bring about the liberation of black people. Thousands of persons are expected to attend the Congress, which is an expansion of black power conferences held annually since 1966. Representatives are expected from North America, Latin America, Africa and the Caribbean. The Chairman of the Congress is Haywood Henry, who is Chairman of the Black Affairs Council and a member of Harvard University's Department of Afro-American Studies.

Mr. Henry in a recent press release has established the following Congress goals: (1) to provide an ideological framework for the black power movement; (2) to develop plans to build black institutions at local, national and international levels; (3) to create a structure to implement mandates; (4) to exchange information; (5) to provide an opportunity for fellowship. N.Y. Times 4 July 70

Reportedly black extremists from the United States and abroad are expected to attend. One of the participants will be LeRoi Jones, radical poet and playwright. Well known black revolutionary Stokely Carmichael is also scheduled to appear at the Congress. Reportedly Carmichael will arrive in the United States on about 1 September and will attend at least a portion of the Atlanta gathering. Carmichael will probably make an address. The President of Tanzania, Julius K. Nyerere, may also attend. FBI IN 144325 4-17-70 ~~AP Times 4 July 70~~

5 - 7 September, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The Black Panther Party sponsored revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention will be held on the above dates allegedly at FBI IN 139560 10 Aug 70

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Temple University. Four thousand people are expected to attend the convention. The nationally prominent Panther hierarchy, including David Hilliard, Elbert "Big Man" Howard and recently released Huey Newton, will head the convention. FBI-NY 139560 E-15 TC

*5 - 7 September, Yosemite National Park, California

A West Coast underground newspaper is promoting a Yosemite liberation movement calling for 10,000 "hippie-yippies" to take over the park over the Labor Day weekend and to overwhelm the "tree fuzz" and "ranger pigs". California police authorities believe that if an attempt to "liberate" the park develops the hippie subculture can be contained. Mis Table 5/11/70

7 September, Morristown, N. J. and Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

Al Hubbard, spokesman for Veterans Against the War, announced plans for RAW (Rapid American Withdrawal). The organization is sponsoring a march from Morristown to Valley Forge by Vietnam veterans and current military personnel. At a recent meeting of Veterans Against the War, Rev. Thomas Hayes of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship read a telegram from Prince Norodom Sihanouk which praised the antiwar movement in America and requested continued pressure on the President. FBI 137 641 [illegible] 70

8 September, New York

The trial of 13 Black Panthers charged in the New York bombing conspiracy will begin on 8 September. State Supreme Court Justice John M. Murtagh indefinitely postponed the trial some months ago due to the courtroom deportment of the defendants as well as the defense attorneys. At least two of those accused, Joan Bird and Michael Tabor, are currently at liberty on $50,000 bond. The Black Panther Party, as well as other black militant organizations, have used the Joan Bird release in a major propaganda effort to solicit black community, as well as white radical, support for the Panther cause. N.Y. Times 22-31 Aug 70 Daily World 14 Aug 70

*12 September, Atlantic City, New Jersey

On August 19 Al Marks, who is Chairman of the Board of the Atlantic City Miss America Pageant, announced that he had received

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confidential information that organizations of the Women's Liberation Movement are planning a major disruption during the crowning ceremonies of Miss America for 1971. These ceremonies are scheduled to take place on the evening of September 12.

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8-21-70

*3 - 10 October, Nationwide

At the recently concluded 23rd annual convention of the National Student Association the delegates called for the organization of a national peace petition week on the above dates. The Association will sponsor a drive aimed at gathering 10 million dollars and 20 million signatures to support the antiwar movement.

The convention elected David Ifshin of 9020 Cherbourg Drive, Potomac, Maryland, the new president of the student group. He succeeds Charles Palmer, formerly of the University of California at Berkeley. Ifshin, whose father, Harold, owns a D.C. liquor store, has a history of campus radicalism. As president of the Syracuse University student body, he organized the October and November 1969 Vietnam moratoriums, headed a student strike in May of this year and led students in support of university service workers who won union recognition this year. Additionally, Ifshin participated in demonstrations at the 1968 Democratic National Convention where he says he was beaten by Chicago police. Ifshin reportedly was a strong supporter earlier in convention proceedings of the Rennie Davis plan to disrupt the functioning of the Government at Washington next May; although the delegates voted down the plan presented by him.

Ifshin, however, led a successful drive for delegate reversal and gained support of a plan similar to the one proposed earlier in the week by Davis. The resolution as finally passed by 214 to 50 states in part "if the war has not ended by May 1, 1971, NSA will commit itself to a concerted expansion of massive non-violent action including civil disobedience at the local, national and regional levels." It appears that in adopting this resolution the delegates were persuaded that the May 1 action in Washington would come about with or without NSA support and that NSA should get in on the action. Additional details will probably be forthcoming as the date approaches.

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*5 October, Washington, D.C.

The United States Supreme Court reconvenes on October 5. A Boston group called the Committee for Constitutional Decision is presently attempting to collect ten million signatures in support of the Massachusetts appeal to the Court to declare the war in Vietnam unconstitutional. According to Dr. Steven Worth, co-chairman of the committee and a faculty member at Northeastern University, 5,500 local groups across the nation will be circulating petitions in support of the Massachusetts law.

The Massachusetts State Attorney General has filed a brief with the Supreme Court asking for a ruling on the constitutionality of a state law passed earlier this year. The statute states in part that no Massachusetts resident will be required to participate in a foreign war unless such hostilities were initially authorized or subsequently ratified by a Congressional declaration of war. 7-26-70 NY Times

*31 October, Washington, D.C.

The Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, in a Cleveland meeting last June, adopted a proposal for mass demonstrations in various American cities on the 31st of October. The demonstrations, which are allegedly nationally coordinated will be centered around the demand for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. troops as well as material from Southeast Asia. The October emphasis will be placed on relating the war directly to the issues of racial oppression, inflation, poverty, unemployment, political repression, GI rights and women's liberation.

The Student Mobe (which is controlled by the Young Socialist Alliance, youth affiliate of the Socialist Workers Party) will continue its effort to involve the labor movement, third world groups and members of the military in opposition to the war. The Student Mobe, persisting in their philosophy, believe that demonstrations in major urban centers is the best way at this time to increase participation in the antiwar movement.

Specific New Mobe plans for particular American cities have thus far not been widely publicized. Principal target cities and demonstration tactics will probably become known in coming weeks. FBI NY 100-3331 6-22-70 Stud Mobilize, 6 Aug 70

SOURCE: Government and news media
RELIABILITY: Probably true

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